

ABYDOS I.

INTRODUCTION.

1. The present volume completes the account of the objects found in the Royal Tombs of the earliest dynasties, the discoveries in which during the previous two years have appeared in the last two volumes. The account of the results of the present year's excavations covers nearly all that has been yet found in the Temenos of Osiris and the well-known cemetery; but another large part of our work is kept back for publication when completed next year. It is always difficult to decide between partial publication in sections, issued rapidly for the immediate benefit of scholars, and systematic publication delayed until every detail has been finally sifted and settled. But the worst of the bulletin system is that the student is afterwards dependent on indexes to find connected subjects; while the worst of the great book long delayed is that often the material loses value while waiting, and the delays may run on so that much is forgotten in the interval.

The Temenos of Osiris I had wished to excavate since I first saw it in 1887. It was undoubtedly one of the oldest centres of worship, and had a long history to be unravelled. If it has proved so far rather different to what was expected, it the more corrects our ideas. But the real temple site has not yet been touched below the level of the XVIIIth Dynasty; and a vast deal still remains to be done there.

The cemetery G was only worked as proved desirable in intervals of other work, and to give employment to workmen between other enterprises. Lying close behind our huts, and with scarcely any small objects of value casually found in it, such a place was an ideal resort whenever men could not be kept on elsewhere. I should hardly have worked it for its own sake alone; but as a stop-gap it proved very convenient, and fairly desirable.

The other large work, which is not described at all in this volume, occupied half of our men, or more, all the season. About a mile south of Abydos, at the foot of the desert cliffs, I had noticed some great tombs when first visiting the ground. The temple which Mr. MacIver excavated two years ago (see the volume on *El Amrah* just issued) proved to belong to a king Kha-kau-ra, presumably Usertesen III., but possibly of a king of the XIIIth Dynasty. The temple lies on the edge of the desert, and a long causeway leads up to one of the great tombs which we have found. As probably most of next season's work will be occupied with these tombs, before they are finally cleared, it is best to leave aside the plans which have been prepared, and give a connected account of the whole site next year.

2. Our excavators were the same gang of men and boys from Koptos who have worked for me during many years. Indeed that gang

has served as a nucleus for all other recent excavators, as Dr. Reisner, at Girgeh, has drawn almost entirely on that centre, and the German work at Abusir has used our trained Quftis for headmen, to say nothing of the Research Account work at El Kab, which has depended on the same source. I have no doubt other places would furnish equally desirable workers, but when once a large party have been trained, they are naturally sought for elsewhere. It is needful, however, to carry on a continual weeding of old hands, as the Egyptian always becomes spoiled with prosperity; and some of the boys, as they have grown up, have come to the front line in their intelligence and conduct. We also employed over a hundred boys, from villages near the work, to do the carrying.

Our camp was entirely fresh, as those who were with us before had all passed on to other work. Mr. Arthur Weigall came out for the first time, and proved a most successful worker. I greatly regret, for the sake of our work, that I have to congratulate him on passing on at once to a better position. He entirely superintended the men at the great southern tombs, which I only visited to give general direction to the region of work. He also looked after the

close of the temenos work, and drew some of the inscriptions, the whole of which he comments on in this volume. Mr. Laurence Christie, who came for artistic copying, has done more than four plates in this volume; but most of his time was given to copying selected sculptures in the Sety temple for the Research Account. Excavations at the Sety temple, on the same basis, were carried on by Mr. A. St. G. Caulfeild, who also took many photographs, some of which appear in this frontispiece. My wife was closely occupied with drawing nearly all the season; especially on the tedious figuring of nearly four hundred flints, and the exact facsimile copies of inscriptions. My own work lay in the Temenos of Osiris, directing the diggers, levelling and recording, and general management and account keeping; for the season's work involves some 40,000 entries of small sums. I have also drawn thirty-seven of the plates here, and taken the photographs. The immediate production of a fully-illustrated bulletin of the results of a season, before the objects reach England, involves organizing all the copying on the spot; but the advantages of quick publication make it well worth while to carry out this system, as we have now done for three years.

CHAPTER I.

OBJECTS FROM THE ROYAL TOMBS.

3. The earliest royal tomb that can yet be placed in the series is that of king Ka, which was described in the last volume (*Royal Tombs*, ii, p. 7). Within the chamber were hundreds of fragments of cylindrical jars (type, pl. vi, 1), some of them with cross-lined pattern copied from cordage. Such jars are well known in the later prehistoric pottery, and belong to the sequence date 78 in that scale. On many of these jars are inscriptions, roughly written in ink with a brush; and on comparing all of the fragments, I have succeeded in putting together those which are copied in plates i., ii., and iii. They prove to be all of two formulae, one for the king, and one for his queen. And as being the oldest hieroglyphic inscriptions known, probably half-way back in the dynasty before Mena, they deserve our closest attention; they show the oldest shapes of the signs, and prove that at that age writing was so familiar that a rapid form of it was freely used to write on dozens of common pottery jars.

On plates i. and ii. it is seen that the whole formula was *Suten Ap*, the Horus *Ka*, followed by three strokes; and on plate iii. the second formula was *Ha hemt en Horus Ka*. Thus, as clearly as possible, these jars are inscribed for the king Ap, whose Horus name is Ka, and for Ha, the wife of the Horus Ka. The name Ap occurs as a masculine name in the Old Kingdom, and also very commonly the form Apa: while Hay and Hayt are known as feminine names. No objection has been made to this reading, even by those who are most surprised by such grammatical writing at that age. The meaning

of the three strokes below the Horus name is not clear, and probably we shall have to wait for some better drawn inscription to explain them, as writing was so familiar to the scribe that mere indications were then enough to give the idea. There is no parallel to this group following any of the other early Horus names; and, as *maa kheru* and *neb tau* both belong to far later times, we may perhaps suppose these lines to represent some steps on which the funereal stele was erected, as on the alabaster of Azab, pl. v, or the pottery marks, probably all from Azab, in *Royal Tombs*, i, pl. xlvi, 111—155. The signs themselves show more than is yet known about them. Observe especially the *suten* plant, which is sometimes of the later normal form, as in Nos. 4, 7, and 9; more generally it has the leaf or flower at the top like the *qema* or *res* sign of the south; and generally the root is shown as a wavy line hanging from it, see especially Nos. 1, 2, 17, 19. This plant was then separate from the *nen* or *nelcheb* plant, but no distinction between the *suten* and *qema* plant was yet made. Probably the use of this plant for *qema* or south was then in the stage of naming *the kingdom, par excellence*, before any other region to the north had been formally included in it: much as we should at present mean the British Isles by speaking of "the kingdom," in contrast to the far larger parts of the present kingdom in other regions.

The inversion of the form of the Horus- or *ka*-name is strange. That the strokes above the arms represent a panelling, like that placed

below the name in all later examples, seems proved by their great variety, having any number of lines from two (fig. 5) to five (figs. 4, 20, 23), or even thirteen strokes scratched on pottery (*R. T.* ii, xiii); such could hardly be a hieroglyph. From later instances this panelling certainly is copied from the front of a building, tomb, or palace: so here we must take it as such, and see the space below it, which contains the sign, as equivalent to the doorway of the building. The instances scratched on pottery (*R. T.* ii, pl. xiii) should probably all be turned, with the *ka* arms upwards, and the panel strokes above them. It is evident that the position of the panelling strokes was changed between the time of Ka and that of Narmer.

The reed *a* has here the separate flowers of the feathery head, as in all early examples; but they vary from three to five in number. The mat-work *p* has the ends all left loose, as in the seals Nos. 16, 57-60, 72, 118, 160 (*R. T.* i, and ii.). The plant *ka* is like that on the Aha ebony tablet in having no base line (*R. T.* ii, x, 2); but the base line came in at that time, as on the tablet *R. T.* ii, pl. iii, 4, and perhaps the same on the tablet No. 3 in the same plate. The signs *hem* and *n* might belong to almost any later age.

Thus on the whole there are but two points in which a change took place between the signs of king Ka and the general usage of two or three centuries later; the *suten* sign passed into two distinct forms, those for "king" and "south," a political change hardly due to hieroglyphic development, and the *ka* name passed from the doorway of the panelling to the space over the panels. Neither of these changes are due to immaturity in the writing; and when we thus reach back a couple of centuries before Mena without finding any marked difference, and meet with a cursive writing, it is plain that we are very far from touching the period of its formation.

Beside the ink writing three more examples

of incised writing of this same king are given, similar to those already published (*R. T.* ii, pl. xiii). On pl. iii, M 36 shows the tail of the hawk, part of the *ka* arms, and the top of the *suten*; 37 shows the *ka* arms and a sign near by which is probably a star and crescent mark like No. 605, &c. (*R. T.* i, pl. li); 38 shows that in one case, at least, the panel strokes were put below and the arms hang down, as the *suten* sign unquestionably shows which way up this is.

We may here briefly note the remaining figures in pl. iii. Nos. 39-43 are all numerical signs neatly painted in ink on alabaster jars, 39 from the tomb of king Den, 40-43 from the tomb of king Mersekha, but perhaps thrown over from Den or elsewhere. 44, 46, and 47 are ink writings on stone vases. 45 is ink writing on a jar from the tomb of Den; it reads *sesh*, and should be compared with other writing on vases *R. T.* i, pl. xxxii, 34-37; pl. xlii, 57-64; *R. T.* ii, pl. xxv, 13-27. The figure of the god Min (48), ink-drawn on a piece of slate bowl from the tomb of Khasekhemui, is the oldest drawn figure of that god. The signs on 49 are from a slate bowl of Perabsen.

4. When last year the names of the earliest kings were grouped together in *Royal Tombs*, vol. ii., I did not observe the presence of another name until the publication of the volume. On *R. T.* ii, pl. xiii, is a sealing No. 96, of which several fragments were found; this shows the hawk on the mouth hieroglyph. Again, on *R. T.* i, pl. xlv, there are several examples (Nos. 2 to 8) of what seems to be the same group. Considering that this group is thus formally cut on a seal, and often drawn on pottery, I think we are justified in seeing in it the royal hawk and the hieroglyph *r* or *ro*, expressing the *ka* name of a king, *Ro*. All of the pottery examples come from the tomb B 1, which, with B 2, was worked by Mr. MacIver in the first year; and this accords with their giving the name of a king, incised like the other early

kings' names, Ka (pl. iii, 38, &c.) and Nar (*R. T.* i, pl. xlv, 1), and belonging to the tomb of the king. These tombs B 1 and 2 are shown on the plan (*R. T.* ii, pl. lviii) immediately above the name BENER-AB.

The age of this king Ro cannot be far from that of king Ka. The position of the tomb does not indicate whether it was before or after that of Ka. But we must observe the presence of a great jar (*R. T.* i, pl. xxxix, 2), which is usual later, but does not occur in the tomb of Ka; the style of the sealing, which is more like those of Narmer or Mena than like the very simple one known of Ka (No. 89); and the clay, which is yellow marl (*heyb* Arab.) like later sealings, and not black mud like the Ka sealing. All of these details point to the order of the kings being—

KA
 RO
 ZESER
 NARMER
 SMA

before the Ist Dynasty opens with Aha—Mena. Thus we can now tolerably restore half of even the ten kings who reigned at Abydos before the united kingdom was established. The list on p. viii of *R. T.* ii, should be thus amended.

5. Some small inscribed objects were not photographed till they reached England, so could not be included in the previous volume. They are here given on pl. iv. Figs. 1 and 2 are pieces of crystal and syenite cups bearing the name of king Sma; by careful wiping with colour the hieroglyphs *nebui Sma* are here brought out visible. Fig. 3 is a piece of ivory bracelet, which was found in the tomb B 2 by Mr. MacIver; I then supposed that it might bear the name of Aha, and in the next season the objects of Benerab clearly showed that this was one of her bracelets, with her name and that of Aha, which had strayed over from the neighbouring tomb. Fig. 4 is a fragment of a

volcanic stone bowl from the tomb of Khasekhemui. Fig. 5 is a piece of an upright cup of pink limestone, with part of a strange hieroglyph upon it which we have not met with elsewhere; it might possibly be the base of a *ka* name, but the crosses below are unexplained. Fig. 6 is a piece of alabaster vase, with a faint inscription of Neithotep. Fig. 7 is the plait of hair and piece of false fringe found in the tomb of king Zer, probably belonging to his queen, on whose arm the bracelets were found: the fringe of locks is exquisitely made, entirely on a band of hair, showing a long acquaintance with hair-work at that age. It is now in the Pitt-Rivers Museum at Oxford. Fig. 8 is an inscription on a fragment of pottery vase from the tomb of king Zer. Fig. 9 is a piece of black pottery with incised patterns, belonging to the large class of such pottery known in the pre-historic age, the IIIrd and IVth Dynasties and the XIIth and XIIIth Dynasties (see *Naqada*, xxx; *Denderah*, xxi, 1; *Kahun*, xxvii, 199—202; *Diospolis Parva*, xl, 43). The place of manufacture of this pottery is yet unknown, but it is wide-spread in the Mediterranean, as we have noticed before. Fig. 10 is the edge of a bowl of quartzose metamorphosed slate; on it is carved in relief the triple twist pattern. It is accidentally inverted here, and therefore reversed in lighting. Fig. 11 is a spirited drawing of a dwarf, outlined on a bowl of metamorphic rock. Fig. 12 is a piece of ivory, shown also in drawing on xi, 2; fig. 13 a piece of ivory, with a row of heads in squares, from the tomb of Zet; fig. 14 a piece of alabaster vase from the W tombs, probably of the reign of Zet.

Plate v. The fragments of an alabaster inscription of Azab were published separately before; for it was not till they came to England that I observed that the pieces fitted together, as they were found scattered in three different tombs. The inscription of Qa was found accidentally after publishing the others from that

tomb. The gold foil of Qa seems to have been part of a model mat of a *hotep* offering, like that found at Hierakonpolis (*Hierakonpolis*, i, pl. xx, 9). The great stele of king Qa was found on the east side of his tomb as described (*R. T.* i, p. 15); the lower part of it had been removed by the *Mission Amélineau*, and was kept at the Cairo Museum; thence it has now been exchanged, and will rejoin the upper part in the Philadelphia Museum.

6. The pottery from the Royal Tombs is given on pls. vi, vii, in addition to that already published in *R. T.* i, pls. xxxix—xliii. It is here classed according to the period; and the following references are given to the volumes *Royal Tombs*, i (*R.*), and the present *Abydos* (*A.*), with the number of the pottery drawing in each. The large jars begin under king Ro with two bands and a bottom ring of rope pattern (*R.* 2); then pass on to plain bands, under Zer (*A.* 13); next the bands come closer together, under Mersekha (*R.* 6); further on they pass up to above the shoulder (*R.* 7), or dwindle to a single band, under Qa (*R.* 5); and lastly we see the jar far smaller with a single band, under Perabsen (*A.* 31).

Some curious late variants of the wavy-handled jars come from the tomb of Mena, B. 19. They are very thick, and so differ from the earlier types, though the form *A.* 3 is like that found far earlier; the arched pattern around it is, however, certainly late. The other forms, *A.* 5, 6, are more than half solid, and the arch pattern has sunk to two curves, or merely three finger pits. Later on under Zer, *A.* 15, 16, these become even more formalized; but it is curious that two different forms, this one and the cylinder jar, *A.* 1, 11, 12, were both derived from one prototype. It is explained, however, by the cylinder jar being a form influenced by approximating to the alabaster cylinder jars, which were already long in use (*Diospolis Parva*, p. 15, pl. iii); and the forms here, *A.* 3, 5, 6, 14, 15, 16; *R.* 111—

114, must be looked on as the real close of the wavy-handled type.

The survival of black-topped pottery, *A.* 9, 10, under Zer is unexpected, as few forms last beyond 60, and scarcely any after 70, sequence date. These, however, are very different in appearance to the earlier black-topped, and are of forms unknown in the prehistoric; only the accidental blacking beneath the ashes resembles the early ware. The oval dishes, *A.* 19, 20, are the last descendants of the oval forms so usual in the early prehistoric; and no later examples than these have been found.

On reaching Perabsen we find the links to the regular forms of the Old Kingdom. The form *A.* 28, probably derived from that of Mena's age, *R.* 110, is the parent of the type of the VIth Dynasty (*Dendereh*, xvi. 5, 7, 22). The hand-made pot with diagonal finger marks, *A.* 27, is the parent of the usual pot of the IIIrd—IVth Dynasty (*Medum*, xxxi, 15); which in another variety (*Medum*, xxxi, 19) lasted on to the VIth Dynasty (*Dendereh*, xvi, 8).

The large limestone bowl, *A.* 33, found in the tomb of Mena, is like that of which a piece bears the name of Zet (*R. T.* ii, pl. vii, 2). The huge pilgrim-bottle, *A.* 34, is probably of the XXIIInd Dynasty.

7. The Aegean pottery here figured, pl. viii. 1—14, was found together in a single deposit in the tomb of Zer, as described in detail in *Royal Tombs*, ii, pp. 9, 46; the account already given should be referred to, and we need only here say that the date and the foreign origin of this group are beyond question. Some regular Egyptian forms, such as 9, 10, 13, 14, and the alabaster 11, were deposited with the foreign forms, and show by the contrast the wide difference between them. The painted pieces below are from the tombs of Den (T) and Mersekha (U); the zigzag line between parallels is a well-known later design, but not hitherto met with in this age.

8. On plate ix are some outlines of stone vases, supplementary to those given in *Royal Tombs*, ii, pls. xlvi—liii. Fig. 1 is a portion of a syenite cup of king Sma, the inscription of which is here shown in photograph on pl. iv. 2. The very curious rush tray carved in alabaster, fig. 4, is here restored from fragments which were found scattered far apart. It is most like some of the remarkable slate carvings which have yet to be published, when the portions now hidden in Paris are available for science. The dolomite marble vases, figs. 5, 6, 7, 10, are those with gold caps, already published in photographs (*R. T.* ii, pl. ix, 2—10). Figs. 8, 9, were found with the copper bowls (*R. T.* ii, pl. ix, 13, 15). The diorite bowl, fig. 13, is photographed in *R. T.* ii, pl. ix, 11; for the position see *R. T.* ii, p. 13, chamber 44. The bowls, figs. 14, 15, are mentioned in position in *R. T.* ii, p. 12, chamber 16.

On plate x. is shown a small group found in the chamber Z 11, south of the tomb of king Zet. The zig-zag pattern, fig. 16, is incised on a bird's leg-bone, which probably served to hold copper needles; the copper borer, 19, is quadrangular; the two flint scrapers should be compared with those from Z on pl. xiv. Fig. 20 is a portion of a carved wooden tray, much weathered, but apparently of a close-grained conifer, probably cedar; the base is shown in the sketch, and part of the curved side. Fig. 21 is from a broken cup of thin horn, found in the tomb of Mena. The rude vases of alabaster are selected to show the variety of forms among the great number found in the tomb of Khasekhemui; the depth of the hollow is shown by a dotted line; these were drawn by Mr. Weigall.

9. As it was impossible to draw all the engraved labels for the last volume, several are given here which were issued only in photographs last year. It will be clearest for reference to state the number on plate xi., the reference to the photograph, and the

comparison with duplicate labels already published.

Pl. xi.	Photographed.	Compare.
2	<i>Ab.</i> iv, 12
3	<i>R. T.</i> i, xiii, 3
4	<i>R. T.</i> ii, viia 3	„ xiv, 12
5	„ „ 6	„ „ 22
6	„ „ 5
7	„ „ 4	<i>R. T.</i> i, xv, 16
8	„ vii, 11	„ „ 18
9	„ viii, 5	„ xvii, 26
10	„ „ 1	<i>R. T.</i> ii, xii, 6
11	„ „ 2	{ <i>R. T.</i> i, xvii, 29 <i>R. T.</i> ii, xii, 6

The duplicate fragments are of the greatest value in any attempt to read these inscriptions, as the variants in arrangement show in what order the signs are to be taken, and what are connected groups. In fig. 11 here, the comparison of the reading with those named above, shows clearly that the *sen* sign of the royal name is to be taken in the sense of “breath,” as in two cases it has the nose following it.

On plate xii. are various examples of incised marks on stone vases, which should be put on record. Those without references were found on fragments heaped together from various tombs in the French work. Fig. 1 is photographed in *R. T.* ii, pl. ii, 7. Fig. 15 is part of a *nebui* inscription. Fig. 18 is probably the *up ast* as in *R. T.* ii, pl. va, 6, 22—24. Figs 20, 21, 22 seem to be all variants of one, and probably the same as *R. T.* i, vii, 11; from these examples the reading must be *mer-se-ka*.

10. On plate xiii. are some drawings of steles, which have not been published in photograph. Some of them are unusual, and need careful comparison with parallel names. On 151 there seems to be the name *Da-Khnum* “gift of Khnum,” but with a very strange form of vase determinative, unlike any vases

known of this age. On 148 it seems as if the double hill *du* was used as a variant for the triangle gift *da*, and it should read *Hotep-du-Neit*, "Neit give peace." The painted inscription in red, 156, is uncommon. On 159 seems to be a hyaena. 168 is a fragment of a large royal stele, found in what is probably the tomb of Narmer; it is carved with relief in three different levels, indicated by different shading; the object appears to be part of a decorated façade (like that in *Deshaskeh*, xxvi), and if so, the royal name was probably in the doorway below it, as on the inscription of king Ka. Unhappily no more was found; but, of course, there may be other fragments in Paris quite unknown. The gold bar of Aha, 171, is here outlined in side view, and the markings on the ends also shown; the photograph of the ends has been already published in *R. T.* ii, pl. iiiA 7, and described on p. 21.

11. On plates xiv., xv., the worked flints found in the royal tombs are arranged in their historical order. In the upper half of the series the flakes and scrapers are placed, and below these are the knives and fragments. The names of the kings are placed at the top of each column, and the letters of the tombs and some details are written on the photographs. In no other country or age has such an admirable series been found for the study of variations in the types and the rate of variation. And this only adds one more to the bitter regrets that this collection consists of only the scraps left behind after the shameless plundering of these tombs by speculators, with the full assent of the Egyptian authorities.

At the top the small pointed flakes begin

with Mena, and disappear under Merneit; the flakes under Den are rougher, and such continue to Perabsen. On the other hand, the square-ended flakes begin under Den, but develop strongly and distinctively during the IInd Dynasty. The round-ended flakes are finely worked with wide flat sides; beginning under Zer, they are poorer under Den, and merge into the square-ended flakes by the end of the Ist Dynasty.

The flat scrapers are not of well-marked types at first; a tailed scraper is seen under Merneit, and a rounded triangular one under Azab. The triangle is sharper under Mersekha, and by the time of Khasekhemui the triangular scraper, long or equilateral, is the commonest form of flint.

The knives begin with the deep back curve, as in that found in the Mena-tomb at Naqada (DE MORGAN, *Rech.* ii, fig. 769). The handle by the first large knife does not belong to that specimen, but is only placed to carry on the figure. The curve becomes less gradually, until it is almost straight backed under Khasekhemui. The surface working, which is far below that of the prehistoric flints even at first, becomes rougher on the later knives, and the body is left much thicker and coarser. One instance of a recurved tip occurs under Zet. The small knives, with two nicks for tying them on to the girdle, are only found under Zer, see foot of plate. The sharp toe to the handle is most marked in the first half of the dynasty, and fades away after that until it is almost lost under Khasekhemui. The most typical series of these varieties for comparison is in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

CHAPTER II.

THE TEMENOS OF OSIRIS.

12. As the excavations in the great Temenos of Osiris still need one or two years more of work to complete them, it is not desirable to prepare a tentative plan; but anyone wishing to follow closely what is described can use the plan made by Mr. Garstang, and published in *El Arabah*. Without a plan it is useless to trouble a reader with topographical descriptions, and hence the account here is restricted to explaining the relations of the various things found and figured in these plates.

So far as our excavations have yet gone, the history of the site may be briefly summed up thus. A temple of Osiris stood here upon the sandy edge of the desert, certainly in the VIth Dynasty, and presumably before the Ist Dynasty. Outside of the temple enclosure a town sprang up behind it on the desert before the Ist Dynasty, and mingled with that town are a few large tombs and some smaller burials of the Ist Dynasty. These seem to have been placed amid the deserted houses when that part of the town was unoccupied. This town spread for some hundreds of feet around the temple, and lasted on to the IVth—VIth Dynasties. Some time after the Old Kingdom a great enclosure wall was built, far outside of the temple ground, resting upon the town rubbish. A corner of this was boxed off with cross walls, and filled up with interments of the XIth—XVIIth Dynasties, known later as the Kom es Sultan, which was completely emptied out by Mariette's workmen. In the XIth Dynasty Antef V. rebuilt the

temple with octagonal columns of limestone. In the XIIth Dynasty many monuments were added by Usertesen I. In the XIIIth Dynasty Sebekhotep III. built a black granite gateway.

In the XVIIIth Dynasty Tahutmes III. built a massive inner enclosing wall to the temple, over twenty feet thick, with a great red granite pylon on the back or desert side, opening into the larger walled area. Much of the larger wall had been destroyed, and a town spread over the space, as before in the Old Kingdom; but later, probably in the troubles of the XXth Dynasty, the old line of outer wall was built again, over the later town. In the XXVIth Dynasty the temple was rebuilt, and additions made in the XXXth Dynasty. Where the original shrine of Osiris stood is not yet known; but presumably it was the nucleus of the original temple, and therefore beneath the later temples. We have not yet cleared the temple site below the foundations of the XVIIIth Dynasty, and work there will be very difficult owing to the rise of the Nile level placing the lower parts under water.

13. The excavation of the temenos area was a difficult matter to arrange. On every side it was bounded so that no clear space could be begun upon; and I was obliged to start by throwing back along a line of existing ruins. In the higher part of the ground, nearer to the desert, the clean sand surface of the old desert was found beneath all the towns piled one over the other. But this clean sand was inaccessible beneath the water in every part of the temple ground bounded by the great wall of Tahutmes

III. That most important region we have only yet searched as far back as the XVIIIth Dynasty; but having now finished a large space outside of it, we can proceed next year to unload the temple ground on to the space already searched, and thus work down over it, leaving only the lowest levels to be cleared at the dry end of the season. In the whole space outside of the temple ground not a trace of any building of the early time was found except mud brick houses. We have, then, to deal with what was a series of towns, piled up in strata which are usually 6 inches to 1 foot thick.

To denote the positions of small objects found, I marked each with a trench number and a level. The trench numbers I have not published here, as it appears that there was a generally level spread of the town in all parts that we dug, for peculiar types of flints or pottery are found at closely the same level in different trenches. The levels were at first denoted in inches absolutely above a fixed datum point; but as work went on it proved more convenient and satisfactory to denote them in inches over the basal slope of clean sand. This sand gently sloped down from the desert to the cultivation, and hence absolute levels are not comparable, but heights over sand show the true depth of ruin. Every level stated on the drawings of flints, pottery, and other objects here is in inches over sand, or absolute depth of ruin at the point. Roughly speaking, the town began about the beginning of Dynasty 0, and the stratified material that was left untouched by the *sebakhin* rarely extended beyond the IIInd Dynasty. The discussion of the relations of the pre-historic sequence dates, the kings' reigns, and the town levels will best be taken after describing the various material that we have found. In many places I dug through the basal sand for a foot or two, but always found it clean and undisturbed, and in no case did I observe any graves or hollows dug in it and filled up, though I

often looked for them carefully. The walls of the houses were sometimes visible for a couple of feet or so in height when a clean section was cut; but the bricks were quite indistinguishable, and the wall could only be detected as the interruption of lines of charcoal and potsherds by a vertical face of uniform earth. It was, therefore, not practicable to trace out the separate houses, or to make any plan of the buildings; and in no case did we find any length of uniform wall more than the side of a room or two, or any thicker mass than the usual chamber walls. There does not seem to have been any large enclosure or uniform mass of building, but only small houses. The whole compacted mass of wall-stumps, mud and sherds is so unified by pressure and wet—being saturated at high Nile—that only clean cut sections would show anything; and there was no discriminating cohesion in one part more than another.

14. Throughout the early town, flints more or less wrought were abundant. Thousands of flakes were found (of which a portion were levelled, and are figured on pls. xxiv, xxv): and some hundreds of worked-up flints, knives, scrapers, saws, &c., which were all levelled when found in undisturbed earth. The *sebakhin* had, however, dug over the whole site, and parts of it down even to the sand; and therefore many flints were found in their siftings which cannot now be levelled. Though some of these were fine examples, they are not figured here, as no exact historic value can be given to them. The drawings here were all made by outlining the flints on the paper, copying the edge flakes, and then drawing in the general flaking by freehand, observing the form of each flake carefully. Every flint has its level in inches over the basal sand, or the depth of ruin when it was dropped, marked below it.

Pls. xvi, xvii. FLINT KNIVES WITHOUT HANDLES.—On comparing these it did not seem that there was any restriction of types to special